

# COUNCIL COMING ATTRACTIONS



## Week of June 8, 2020

*Declaring Racism a Public Health Crisis, Food Insecurity Issues Around Covid-19, Covid-19 Public Health and Safety Update, E-Scooters, Unemployment Insurance Outreach, OLO Research Papers on Montgomery County's Economic Recovery from the Covid-19 Pandemic*

Council Coming Attractions is a summary of some of the issues before the Council. All Council staff reports and additional information on each item scheduled for Council or Committee review can be viewed at: <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/COUNCIL/ondemand/index.html>

The Council meeting schedule may change from time to time. The current Council and Committee agendas can also be viewed at:

<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/COUNCIL/ondemand/index.html>

**The Council will hold a virtual meeting on Tuesday, June 9 at 10 a.m.**

## COUNCIL

### **Supplemental Appropriation to Montgomery College's Fiscal Year 2020 (FY20) Operating Budget - \$1,000,000 for CARES Act Higher Education Emergency Relief Funding**

On June 9 at 10 a.m. the Council will introduce a supplemental appropriation of one million dollars to Montgomery County's FY20 Operating Budget for the CARES Act Higher Education Emergency Relief Funding. Montgomery College seeks this appropriation for unplanned expenditures incurred due to the changes in the scope and delivery of face-to-face instruction and work environments, which are eligible for reimbursement under the CARES Act. A public hearing and vote on this appropriation is scheduled for June 23 at 1:30 pm. The Council staff report can be viewed here:

[https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2020/20200609/20200609\\_3A.pdf](https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2020/20200609/20200609_3A.pdf)

### **Special Appropriation to the County Government's FY20 Operating Budget - \$80,000,000 for Federal Coronavirus Relief Fund Nondepartmental Account (NDA)**

The Council will introduce a special appropriation of \$80 million to the County government's FY20 Operating Budget. The special appropriation will refund prior General Fund expenditures for Covid-19 related expenses that are eligible for the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) (approximately \$49 million) and indicates the potential uses of the remaining \$31 million that will be appropriated. The appropriation also requires reporting to the Council every two weeks on expenditures. Additional Council action will be required to appropriate the remaining \$103 million. The Council staff report can be viewed here:

[https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2020/20200609/20200609\\_3B.pdf](https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2020/20200609/20200609_3B.pdf)

### **Office of Legislative Oversight (OLO) Research Papers Related to Montgomery County's Recovery from the Covid-19 Pandemic**

The Council asked OLO to develop a series of short papers that address Covid-19 economic recovery efforts in alignment with the Council's Economic Development Platform. OLO intends to prepare Covid-19 recovery papers over the course of the next few months. For today's agenda, OLO requests that the Council approve the release of four papers on the following topics:

1. Office & Industrial Commercial Real Estate
2. Telework and Economic Development
3. Public Transit in a Pandemic Environment
4. Commercial Real Estate - Hospitality Sector

The Council staff report can be viewed here:

[https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2020/20200609/20200609\\_3H.pdf](https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2020/20200609/20200609_3H.pdf)

### **Special Appropriation to the County Government's FY20 Operating Budget, Maryland Tech Council, Support for COVID-19 Response – Business Continuity Task Force, \$250,000**

The Council will introduce a special appropriation of \$250,000 to the County government's FY20 Operating Budget for the Business Continuity Task Force (BCTF). The BCTF assists tech and life science entrepreneurs in Maryland that are navigating the economic downturn due to the health crisis. It includes experienced business leaders who have led businesses through the financial crisis, like the 2008 recession. This team will help small- and mid-sized tech and life science businesses plan for an optimal recovery and execute the recovery plan based on the economic conditions following the health crisis. The Council staff report can be viewed here:

[https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2020/20200609/20200609\\_3I.pdf](https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2020/20200609/20200609_3I.pdf)

### **Declaration of Racism as a Public Health Crisis**

The Council will introduce a resolution to declare racism a public health crisis. Research demonstrates that racism itself is a social determinant of health. Scientists now see race as a social, cultural and/or political construct wherein de facto racial segregation and race-based discrimination have real consequences on health and health disparities. The full Council is sponsoring this resolution, which was spearheaded by Councilmember Will Jawando.

The Council has a demonstrated track record of promoting racial equity, social justice, and inclusions in all aspects of County government to narrow disparities in opportunities by race and ethnicity. This commitment is exemplified in the development and execution of the Racial Equity and Social Justice Act, the Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice, the Law Enforcement Trust and Transparency (LETT) Act, Policing Advisory Commission, and the Community Policing Law and the Remembrance and Reconciliation Commission. These laws and initiatives identify racism as a root cause of disparities and inequities by race and ethnicity that cause poverty and diminished economic activity. The Council staff report can be viewed here:

[https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2020/20200609/20200609\\_3-5.pdf](https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2020/20200609/20200609_3-5.pdf)

**Hearing Examiner's report and recommendation - Local Map Amendment H-135; an Amendment to the Zoning Ordinance Map to rezone 33.64 acres of property located at 10400 Fernwood Road, Bethesda, MD from CR (Commercial/Residential Zone) -1.5, C-0.75, R-0.75, H-150 to the CRF (Commercial/Residential Floating Zone) -1.5, C-0.75, R-1.5, H-150**

On June 9 at 10:30 a.m. the Council is scheduled to vote to approve, disapprove or remand the Hearing Examiner's recommendation to approve Local Map Amendment H-135, which is an amendment to the Zoning Map to rezone 33.64 acres of property located at 10400 Fernwood Road in Bethesda. The Council staff report can be viewed here:

[https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2020/20200609/20200609\\_4.pdf](https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2020/20200609/20200609_4.pdf)

**Novel Coronavirus (Covid-19) and County Public Health Planning**

On June 9 at 10:45 a.m. the Council will sit as the Board of Health to receive an update on the County's ongoing response to the Covid-19 pandemic and its recovery efforts. Those expected to attend the meeting include the following: Dr. Travis Gayles, county health officer and chief of the Department of Health and Human Services' (DHHS) Public Health Services; Dr. Earl Stoddard, director, Office of Emergency management and Homeland Security; and Dr. Raymond Crowel, director, DHHS, are among those expected to attend. The Council staff report will be available on June 8.

**Food Security Issues During Covid-19**

On June 19 at 1:45 p.m. the Council will receive an update on food security issues resulting from the Covid-19 public health crisis. Those expected to attend the meeting include the following: Dr. Earl Stoddard, director, Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (OEMHS); Dr. Raymond Crowel, director, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS); Netta Squires, Food Security Task Force lead, OEMHS; Maggie Davis, Food Security Task Force lead, OEMHS; Mark Hodge, Food Security Task Force lead, DHHS; Heather Bruskin, executive director, Montgomery County Food Council (Food Council) and Food Security Task Force lead; Jackie DeCarlo, executive director, Manna Food Center (Manna); Radha Muthiah, CEO, Capital Area Food Bank (CAFB); and Jeanie Dawson, director, Department of Material Management, Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS). The Council staff report can be viewed here:

[https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2020/20200609/20200609\\_11.pdf](https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2020/20200609/20200609_11.pdf)

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

Council public hearings will be held on Tuesday, June 9 at 1:30 p.m.

**Amendments to the Comprehensive Water Supply and Sewerage Systems Plan**

The Council will hold a public hearing on amendments to the Comprehensive Water Supply and Sewerage Systems Plan. On April 16, the Council received a package of three water and sewer category change requests from the County Executive. A Transportation and Environment Committee (T&E) meeting is tentatively scheduled for June 15. The Council staff report can be viewed here:

[https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2020/20200609/20200609\\_6.pdf](https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2020/20200609/20200609_6.pdf)

**Supplemental Appropriation to the County Government's FY20 Operating Budget, Department of Police, Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention (GOCCP) - \$549,709 for Sex Assault Kit Testing (SAKT) Award**

The Council will hold a public hearing on a special appropriation to the Montgomery County Police Department's FY20 Operating Budget. This supplemental appropriation is needed to authorize expenditures of \$549,709 that will fund sex assault kit testing in the Police Department. The Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention awarded a grant to the department for this purpose. The funds will assist the Police Department's Crime Lab with testing kits more quickly. The source of funds is a State grant. The Council

is tentatively scheduled to vote on this appropriation on June 6. The Council staff report can be viewed here:

[https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2020/20200609/20200609\\_7.pdf](https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2020/20200609/20200609_7.pdf)

### **Bill 8-20, E-Scooters - Operating Requirements and Registration**

The Council will hold a public hearing on Bill 8-20. Council President Sidney Katz is the lead sponsor. Councilmember Gabe Alborno is a cosponsor. Bill 8-20 would do the following: update the definition of bicycle to conform to state law; permit a person to register a bicycle or electric low-speed scooter (e-scooter) owned by a County resident for personal use; require the registration of an e-scooter provided for rent in the County and pay a registration fee; establish operating requirements for e-scooter use in the County; and generally amend County law governing bicycle and e-scooter use in the County. A Public Safety (PS) and T&E Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for June 25 at 1:30 pm. The Council staff report can be viewed here:

[https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2020/20200609/20200609\\_8.pdf](https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2020/20200609/20200609_8.pdf)

#MoCoEScooter is being used for this bill on social media.

### **Special Appropriation to the FY20 Operating Budget WorkSource Montgomery Non-Departmental Account, Support for Covid-19 Response - Unemployment Insurance Outreach, \$40,000**

The Council will hold a public hearing and vote on a special appropriation to WorkSource Montgomery's FY20 Operating Budget of \$40,000 for unemployment insurance outreach as part of the County's Covid-19 response. The subject resolution supports WorkSource Montgomery's efforts, in partnership with the state, County and other non-profit partners, to conduct an outreach campaign to ensure all County residents are aware of the unemployment eligibility and benefits available through the Maryland Department of Labor. The Council staff report can be viewed here:

[https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2020/20200609/20200609\\_9.pdf](https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2020/20200609/20200609_9.pdf)

### **Special Appropriation to the Montgomery County Public Schools' FY20 Capital Budget, and Amendment to the FY19-24 Capital Improvements Program (CIP) - \$446,075 for Technology Modernization Project**

The Council will hold a public hearing and vote on a special appropriation of \$446,075 to Montgomery County Public Schools' (MCPS) FY20 Capital Budget and FY19-24 CIP for the Technology Modernization Project. This will be used to provide equipment, software, and support to implement the Montgomery Can Code initiative during the summer of 2020. The Council staff report can be viewed here:

[https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2020/20200609/20200609\\_10.pdf](https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2020/20200609/20200609_10.pdf)

## **COMMITTEES**

### **Tenant Support Services - FY20 and FY21 Non-Competitive Contract Recommendations**

On Monday, June 8 at 9:30 a.m. the Planning, Housing and Economic Development (PHED) Committee will review tenant support services: FY20 and FY21 non-competitive contract recommendations. The PHED Committee will review and consider the Executive's recommendations for contracts that support tenant education and supports including, but not limited to, on-site legal aid for the eviction process. The Committee will also discuss what additional services and resources may be needed to help tenants who are not able to stay current with their rent because of the economic impacts of the Covid-19 crisis in order to avoid an increase in evictions filed by landlords. The Council staff report can be viewed here:

[https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/cm/2020/20200608/20200608\\_PHED1.pdf](https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/cm/2020/20200608/20200608_PHED1.pdf)

### **Montgomery County Housing Needs Assessment**

The PHED Committee will receive an overview presentation of the Montgomery County Housing Needs Assessment. The Planning Department contracted with HR&A and LSA Planning in the winter 2019 to

complete this study, which is part of the County's update of its General Plan and Subdivision Staging policy. It also will be used as a basis for ongoing work to increase the amount of housing, and particularly affordable housing, in accordance with the goals adopted by the Washington Metropolitan Council of Governments and supported by the Council. Casey Anderson, chair of the Montgomery County Planning Board; Gwen Wright, planning director, Montgomery County Planning Department; and Lisa Govoni, housing policy coordinator, Montgomery County Planning Department are expected to attend. The Council staff report can be viewed here:

[https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/cm/2020/20200608/20200608\\_PHED2.pdf](https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/cm/2020/20200608/20200608_PHED2.pdf)

### **Housing Recovery Framework**

The PHED Committee will close out its meeting with a discussion of the County's Housing Recovery Framework. The County has adopted a framework for recovery as government, businesses and the community begin to reopen and return to more regular activities. The County's recovery effort, in the midst of a global pandemic, will include a community-wide approach for all individuals to thrive. The framework includes the following components:

- **Racial Equity:** Provide the appropriate level of support to individuals, so that there is fair access to quality services and resources.
- **Inclusion:** Focus on initiatives that make Montgomery County a place where all people can recover and rebuild regardless of race, ethnicity, age or economic circumstances.
- **Innovation:** Harness advancements that sustain a continuation of all County and related services and resources to our community.
- **Sustainability:** Use this opportunity to modernize County services and deploy resources efficiently and responsively

Aseem Nigam, director of the Department of Housing and Community Development, is expected to attend the meeting. The Council staff report can be viewed here:

[https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/cm/2020/20200608/20200608\\_PHED3.pdf](https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/cm/2020/20200608/20200608_PHED3.pdf)

### **Arts and Humanities Operating Support Grants Discussion**

The E&C Committee will discuss the Arts and Humanities operating support grants. Nationwide and in Montgomery County, the arts and culture sector, which includes organizations and individual artists, has experienced a disproportionate negative economic impact as a result of the Covid-19 global pandemic. The purpose of this discussion is to explore specific arts sector relief programs to mitigate the impact of the pandemic, proactively spur recovery efforts to catalyze the County's economy. The Council staff report can be viewed here:

[https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/cm/2020/20200608/20200608\\_EC1.pdf](https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/cm/2020/20200608/20200608_EC1.pdf)

### **Bill 7-20, Interagency Commission on Homelessness - Membership and Duties**

On June 11 at 9:30 a.m., the Health and Human Services (HHS) Committee will review Bill 7-20, which would alter the membership and duties of the Interagency Commission on Homelessness. Councilmembers Evan Glass, Gabe Albornoz and Craig Rice are the lead sponsors. The Interagency Commission on Homelessness (ICH) is a 25-member commission created by the Council in 2014 to coordinate public and private programs to reduce homelessness in the County. The ICH has requested that several modifications and updates be made to its membership and duties. The purpose of these amendments is to improve the governance and effectiveness of the ICH, as well as to clarify the mission of the ICH to "end and prevent" homelessness, as opposed to simply reducing homelessness. Under Bill 7-20, the ICH would remain a 25-member commission, but its composition would change. At the request of the ICH, certain ex officio slots would be replaced with more public representatives, including homeless service providers, healthcare providers, family services providers and affordable housing providers. The Council staff report will be available on June 8.

**Capital Grants Funding - Worksession on MCG: Cost Sharing and CIP: Arts**

On June 11 at 1:30 p.m. the HHS and Education and Culture (E&C) Committees will meet jointly review capital grants funding. The Council staff report will be available on June 8.